Photo by Johnny Guatto

2023/24

IMPACT REPORT

This year's report provides a snapshot of the University of Toronto Libraries' reach, including key statistics and updates. With the support of our partners, UTL remains an essential resource for our university community.

A Note of Thanks from the University Chief Librarian

At U of T Libraries, our mission is to empower and support our diverse community of students, researchers, and faculty. This report celebrates the ways we've expanded our impact across the University of Toronto and beyond, creating inclusive and innovative spaces that drive learning, creativity, and connection.

The "Defy Gravity" campaign theme embodies the transformative spirit of the University of Toronto: it reflects our legacy of advancing knowledge and fostering an inclusive community that inspires students to think across disciplines and beyond limits. Our libraries are at the heart of this mission, providing essential resources, supports, and environments that fuel bold thinking and groundbreaking research.

Our libraries continue to evolve as spaces that prioritize excellence, wellness, and a sense of belonging for all. Through advanced technologies and open-access resources, we equip our students and researchers with the tools and confidence they need to succeed in an ever-changing world. Libraries once filled with catalogues and rows of books are now vibrant hubs that offer collaborative areas, quiet zones, family-friendly spaces, and even wellness rooms. Students and faculty come not only to study but also to connect, reflect, and find moments of calm amid a busy academic life.

Our entire library system — from Robarts to Gerstein, Fisher to Media Commons, and faculty libraries across campus — plays a critical role in developing this inclusive and empowering environment. We are proud to support a community that not only cherishes academic excellence but also embraces diversity and equity for all students, librarians, faculty and staff.

Thanks to our supporters' generosity, we can continually transform our spaces and offer critical supports and opportunities to encourage student success. Whether through using advanced AI research tools or providing welcoming places to work and gather, we are here to help every student and researcher feel empowered to defy limits and achieve the impossible.

Thank you for your partnership. Together, we will keep fostering an environment where everyone in our community has the resources to succeed.

Larry P. Alford
University Chief Librarian
University of Toronto Libraries

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO LIBRARIES

DEFY GRAVITY

University of Toronto Statistics on Libraries

Heritage Reading Room in the Gerstein Science Information Centre

Photo by Diamond Schmitt Architects

40
libraries across 3 campuses

#1
ranking as the largest research library in Canada

#3
ranking as one of the top 3 library systems in North America (Association of Research Libraries)

↑18K
up to 18,000 visitors to Robarts daily (1,748,493 in the 2023–2024 academic year)

16M+
more than 16 million print and electronic volumes in 341 languages

57K
56,893 reference questions answered from all libraries

18M+
more than 18 million views on the library.utoronto.ca website

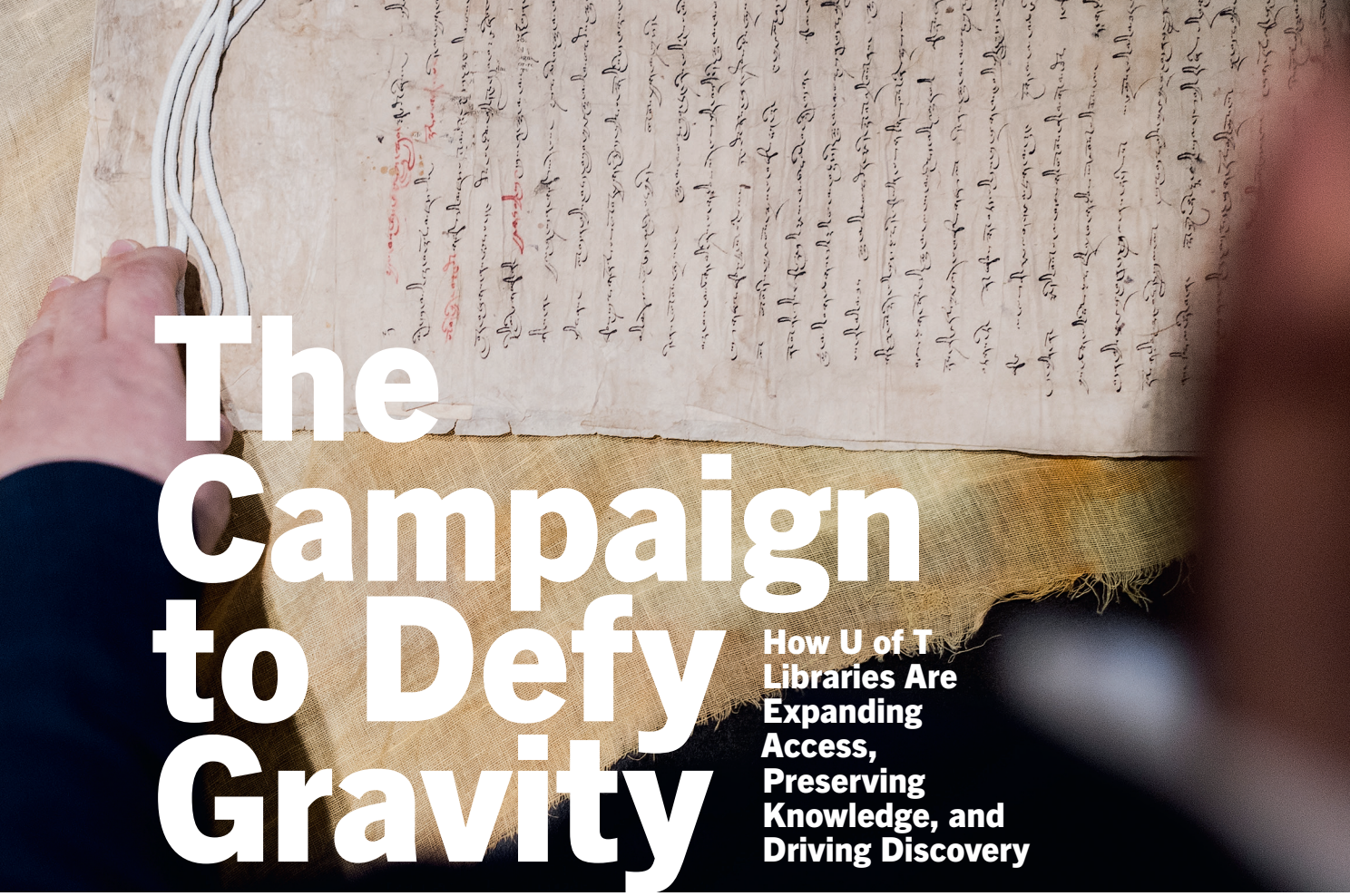
237
visitors from 237 different countries to the website

3.5M
more than 3 million electronic books

16.5K
we support the research and teaching of 16,500 faculty

100K
libraries support 100,000 undergraduate and graduate students across 3 campuses

197
years of service to the university community (1827–2024 and beyond)



The Campaign to Defy Gravity

How U of T Libraries Are Expanding Access, Preserving Knowledge, and Driving Discovery

In a world searching for positive change, the University of Toronto's Defy Gravity campaign is a bold, visionary initiative to advance our institution—and the world—toward a more inclusive, sustainable and prosperous future.

With a goal of $4 billion, this historic campaign will build upon U of T's commitment to achieve the impossible. It will expand pathways to education, fuel game-changing innovation and empower diverse voices to tackle society's most urgent challenges. Together, with our global community of 680,000 alumni, 95,000 students, and 23,000 faculty and staff, the university has launched a powerful movement that inspire new ways of thinking, drive thrilling research and discoveries and rebuild the world in ways that are compassionate, responsible and intentional.

At the University of Toronto Libraries, we're defying gravity in our own right. In an age of rapid change, our libraries continue to preserve and safeguard the essential truths and knowledge society needs to thrive. Donor support is helping libraries across U of T evolve into vibrant, inclusive and welcoming spaces where students and researchers can access one of the world's richest collections of knowledge. By choosing UTL, donors are fueling groundbreaking research, providing students with life-changing education and experiences, and supporting a world-class research institution that preserves, nurtures and amplifies ideas across disciplines, backgrounds and communities.

From protecting our shared past to setting new global standards for discovery and innovation, UTL is helping to build a more informed and resilient world by cultivating the most passionate, diverse and compassionate thinkers within our community . Every contribution strengthens our libraries' role as spaces of learning, discovery, and engagement—where bright minds and pioneering technology come together to defy gravity, tackle challenges head on, and build a better world.

Photo by Matt Volpe

Our Donors

Your generous support has allowed UTL to have a foundational impact across the entire U of T community and beyond, fuelling the cutting-edge work of students and researchers as they take on the greatest challenges of our time. **Thank you.**

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We're So Grateful for the Support of Our Friends!

Photos by Paul Terefenko

Left, top to bottom: Snapshots from the *Kant and Some Post-Kantians* exhibition opening, the J. Edward Chamberlin Lecture, and the *Women on the Move* exhibition opening. Right: Guests at the 15th anniversary of the Richard Charles Lee Canada-Hong Kong Library.